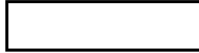


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GERMAN UNIFICATION AND THE DISARMAMENT QUESTION

- I. Sentiment in favor of a neutralized, unified Germany is growing in both France and the Federal Republic. The Socialist leaders in Paris favor such a solution, and the German Free Democrats are beginning to agree with the Social Democrats that NATO membership should be dropped. The Adenauer government, still committed to NATO, has publicly reiterated its intention to express its views on unification directly to Moscow.
- II. On 23 April Ambassador Dillon expressed his personal opinion that the Socialist leaders now heading the French government are prepared to accept a reunified, neutralized Germany which would have no exclusive ties to the West. Dillon believes that the present French government would link such a status for Germany to a general disarmament agreement with the USSR which would reduce the forces of "the three great powers" (presumably the US, USSR and Communist China) to from 1 million to 1.5 million men and leave France and Britain with 650,000 each. He points out that Premier Mollet admits the French government's disarmament policy is now based on the views of Jules Moch,

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Who has always favored severe restrictions on German rearmament.

III. Opinion polls taken in France since 1952 indicate a trend away from the continuation of Western defense arrangements as embodied in NATO, and an increasing disinclination to "side with the West." Only 19 percent of the respondents in January 1956 favored continuation of NATO as contrasted with 31 percent favoring the "alternative" of a broadened security system including the USSR.

IV. Many French observers have read into President Eisenhower's speech of 21 April a change, at least of emphasis, which they believe may be taking place in American policy. The usually highly critical Paris daily Le Monde saw in the President's speech the admission that the Soviet Union might "evolve" in a way favorable to peace. Le Monde had earlier publicized the belief that the denigration of Stalin indicated a slow democratization of the USSR. This hope leads Le Monde and neutralist elements in France to press for new overtures to Moscow on disarmament and for a reassessment of German rearmament.

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- VI. It seems certain that Chancellor Adenauer and his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) would oppose foreign suggestions of the neutralization of Germany, a concept they have always labelled as "fatal."
- VII. The opposition Social Democrats, however, have long favored a European-wide security system to replace NATO, and the Free Democrats, since being ousted from the Adenauer government in February, have talked as if they would be prepared to give up NATO.

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- IX. In common with the other West German parties, however, the CDU has been worried lately that the disarmament

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leaving Germany divided.

- I. For this reason, Bonn officially protested Premier Mallet's 3 April "US News" statement, implying that disarmament carried a higher priority than German unification. Later discussions with the French seemed to assure Bonn that there were actually no differences in policy.
- II. Foreign Minister Brentano told correspondents on 13 April that the German ambassador in Moscow would "very soon" present his government's views on disarmament and unification, but that no bilateral negotiations were intended.
- XII. It is evident that the Bonn government cannot appear quiescent on the unification issue. While there are no present indications that the government intends to act without consulting its allies or to alter its basic foreign policies, it will find itself in an increasingly uncomfortable position domestically if other members of the Western alliance act to create an alliance-free status for Germany.

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